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V CORPS INFANTRY CAPTAIN RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF ARMY'S TOP LEADERS WITH MACARTHUR AWARD

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BAUMHOLDER, Germany -- As an enlisted Soldier who made his way into the officer corps via a West Point commission, Capt. Joe Ewers of V Corps' Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, says he has seen the impact positive leadership has on Soldiers. With Ewers's selection as a winner in the Department of the Army General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award, the captain has been recognized as one of those positive leaders.



IGNACIO 'IGGY' RUBALCAVA
Capt. Joe Ewers of V Corps' Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry was recently selected as a winner at the Department of the Army level of the annual General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awards competition.

"I saw, as a younger enlisted Soldier, what a tremendous impact a good leader had upon the ranks. (And) I saw what a tremendously detrimental impact a negative leader had, or a leader that had a negative presence. After having walked that line as a young enlisted Soldier and seeing what the impact was and seeing the level of sacrifice among the younger Soldiers and what they do on a regular basis, I feel that the least we can do for them is to lead them well," said Ewers.

Ewers said he is humbled to be one of 12 active Army officers selected by the Department of the Army to receive the leadership award. "It's something I was very proud to be nominated for, but it's difficult to feel that anything your unit accomplishes is because of yourself. It's so much the efforts of your subordinates, your subordinate leaders, your individual Soldiers, and the support of families. So it's more credit to them and what they've been able to bind together, than it is something I've accomplished as an individual," said Ewers.

"I'm very proud of it, but it should be more of a credit and an honor to those who serve with me and work with me to achieve our mission than it is for me as an individual. I've been extremely blessed with the folks that I've been surrounded with, and I continue to fall into situations where I've got great guys to my right and left; great guys working for me; a great peer group, and good leaders overhead. I've not had a sour experience yet in terms of where I've been assigned and where I've worked," said Ewers.

Before taking command of HHC, 1-6th, Ewers commanded Charlie Company, 1-6th during the 15 months the unit spent deployed in Iraq with the corps' 1st Armored Division deployment to Iraq. He said even deployment was a positive experience.

"I was fortunate enough, in that I took Charlie Company four or five months prior to deployment, so I had enough time to get myself established in that company and start to build my team, get my systems in place ... get that level of comfort," he said.

General Douglas MacArthur, who served as the inspiration for the leadership award graduated from West Point in 1903 at the top of his 93-man class. During World War

I Macarthur served with V Corps for a short time until he was selected for promotion to brigadier general. After the war he returned to the academy to become the youngest superintendent in its 117-year history.

Like MacArthur, Ewers will soon return to West Point. "I got chosen to go back there on a leadership fellowship. I'll go back and actually be a leadership instructor at the academy. This all came to pass before this award ever came to pass, so it was kind of a neat affirmation that everything is kind of moving in that direction," said Ewers.

Reflecting on his days as a West Point cadet, Ewers remembered having to memorize quotes from MacArthur during his freshman year. "He's always been larger than life, so to be considered somebody that represents what he stood for is a great honor," he said.

After his teaching assignment, Ewers wants to continue serving in the infantry. "I plan on staying in as long as they'll have me," said the Cincinnati, Ohio native. "I'd love to continue to serve in the infantry and continue to seek positions of increased responsibility and continue to make a positive impact. That was one of the reasons I wanted to be a leader when I was an enlisted Soldier."

Ewers and his wife Sandy, of Long Island, N.Y., are expecting their first child in the coming weeks.

